

Agency Overview

The Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE), created in 1994, is a nonpartisan, independent office that serves the Legislature's information needs by conducting performance evaluations of state agencies and programs. The mission of OPE is to promote confidence and accountability in state government through these evaluations. Evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations are used by the Legislature to make policy and appropriation decisions and by agencies to improve performance.

Performance evaluations include assessing whether:

- Agencies or programs are complying with applicable laws and legislative intent
- Services are provided efficiently and in a cost-effective manner
- Programs and services are achieving intended results

OPE works under the direction of the bipartisan, Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC). It has eight full-time staff, including six evaluators, an administrative coordinator, and a director who serves at the pleasure of the Oversight Committee.

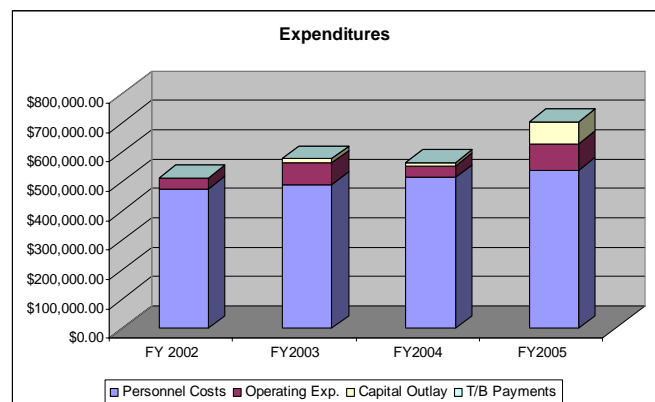
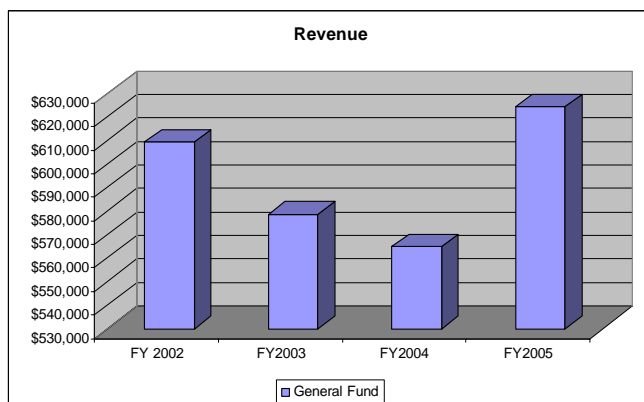
Core Functions/Idaho Code

Authorizing statutes: Idaho Code §§ 67-457 through 67-464

1. Conduct performance evaluations and report each evaluation to JLOC
2. Identify cost savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs
3. Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions
4. Be responsive to the Legislature's information needs

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$609,300	\$578,700	\$564,800	\$624,200
Total	\$609,300	\$578,700	\$564,800	\$624,200
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$475,000	\$490,300	\$514,200	\$540,100
Operating Expenditures	\$38,000	\$72,800	\$39,500	\$89,200
Capital Outlay	\$1,000	\$15,600	\$11,100	\$74,000
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$514,000	\$578,700	\$564,800	\$703,300



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	3	4	3	3
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	N/a	3	5	1
Number of federal mandate reviews completed	0	1	0	1

The OPE workload depends on the number and nature of projects assigned each year by JLOC.

Performance Highlights

OPE received a 2005 Impact Award from the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society for its evaluation report, Fiscal Accountability of Pupil Transportation. The evaluation provided a detailed, statewide review of pupil transportation functions and expenditures, and the results of visits to 14 school districts representing a broad spectrum of district profiles. The implementation of our nine recommendations has helped the state improve accountability of pupil transportation, reduce transportation costs, and ensure safe and cost-effective transportation for Idaho's youth attending public schools.

For More Information Contact

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